

History of the Kizhakkevila-Thundil Family (Kundara-Melila)

The Kizhakkevila family branched from the Pakalomattam family of nambudiri brahmins who were brought into the christian faith by Saint Thomas the Apostle after his arrival in India in A.D 52. Originally the ancestral house of the members belonging to the Pakalomattam family was in Palayur. But later in the 17th century after the Coonan Cross Oath there occurred a split in the St. Thomas Christian community after which many members of the family migrated to different parts across Kerala. The Kizhakkevila branch of the family which came to Kundara were noble aristocrats and were elites in the Kingdom of Travancore.

Later a part of the family migrated to Kizhakketheruvu in Melila and became powerful landlords under the family name "Thundil" and had great influence in the land. They were conferred with the honorific title of "Panicker" by the Maharajah of Travancore Sri Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma for their contribution in recruiting and training soldiers for the Travancore army. They were Lords of the region and were given important designations at the king's court in Travancore. They also had a major role in the decision making policy of Kizhakketheruvu as well as the government of the princely state of Travancore. Some members of the family were ordained and served as priests in the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. St. George is the patron saint and protector of our family and St. Thomas the Apostle through apostolic tradition. Members of this family currently has their ancestral house in Kizhakketheruvu in Kottarakkara though some members have migrated to districts of Pathanamthitta, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Wayyanad in Kerala. Some of the family members have also migrated and settled in other states of India and also in Middle East, Europe, the Americas and across the globe. After the Coonan Cross Oath members of this family traditionally belonged to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church though some members of this house currently belongs to Syrian Jacobite, Catholic and Protestant

denominations.



Kizhakkevila Mathunny Panicker